

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is directed to operating a degraded vehicle communication unit within a mobile vehicle communication system (MVCS). The method provides for

5    determining a primary communication mode failure, initiating a secondary communication mode responsive to the primary communication mode failure determination, and operating a telematics device in the secondary communication mode within the vehicle communication unit. The step of determining the primary communication mode failure may include detecting if the

10   telematics unit can not initiate contact with a wireless carrier system, and detecting if the telematics unit can not maintain communication with the wireless carrier system. The step of determining the primary communication mode failure may include determining a GPS unit within the vehicle communication unit is unable to receive a GPS satellite broadcast from a GPS satellite broadcast

15   system.